license benefit with retrospective effect after levying suitable penalty. The total amount of license fee collected amounted to Rs. 4,82,807-10-6 as against Rs. 4,18,130-8-0 in the previous year.

434. This is the 8th year of the introduction of the Sales Tax Act. The Amended Act of 1954 came into force from 1st April 1955.

(iv) Mysore Government Insurance Department.

Revision of premium rates.

435. Consequent on the Nationalisation of Life Insurance Business in India, the Government of India introduced uniform premium rates reducing the premiums quoted by the Oriental Life Insurance by Rupee one per thousand sum assured for all ages and terms where the annual premium is Rs. 20 per thousand sum assured or more and by five per cent of the annual premium where the annual premium is less than Rs. 20 under almost all the tables existing in the Oriental. The premium rates of the Public Branch were revised to be in conformity with the standard Indian rates with effect from 1st April 1956.

Insurance in Rural areas.

436. A scheme for making an intensive drive to popularise insurance in rural areas in co-operation with the department of Rural Industrialisation was drawn up.

Housing Scheme for Employees.

437. A Housing Scheme for the benefit of the employees of the Department was under consideration of Government.

Mechanisation Scheme.

438. With the implementation of the mechanisation scheme much progress has been made in accounting and statistical work of the Department.

Amendment to Rules.

439. The Public Branch Rules were amended with a view to give more benefit to the policyholders and make our scheme attractive in the field of business. Some of the important amendments introduced were :—

1. The maximum limit of assurance on first class male lives was enhanced from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 and in respect of females from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 and the lower limits of assurance in respect of female lives was reduced from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 500.

REVENUE AND FINANCE

2. According to old rules, a person between 16 and 18 years of age was unable to insure his life. Therefore, a modified scheme of insurance applicable to persons below 18 years of age has been introduced with effect from 26th December 1955.

440. The Department undertook a continuous and steady campaign in advertisement and propaganda work. Special posters, pictorial oil paintings and wooden models depicting the advantages of life insurance in several stages and walks of life were prepared and exhibited in the Dasara Exhibition. Brochures and hand bills explaining in brief the various Insurance plans introduced by the Department were printed and distributed widely among the visitors to the Stall.

Official Branch New Business.

441. Out of the 8,210 proposals accepted during the year including 1,265 proposals pending at the beginning of the year and 17 cases reinstated during the year, 6,864 proposals resulted in policies for an assurance of Rs. 85,15,531 bringing in a monthly premium of Rs. 32,447. Of the remaining 1,346 proposals, 276 were cancelled, and for 1,071 cases treasury receipts for payment of first premium had not been received before the close of the year.

Public Branch New Business.

442. In the Public Branch, New Business recorded was 18,070 proposals for a total sum of Rs. 2,53,24,600 as against 13,236 proposals for Rs. 1,82,48,300 in the previous year, showing an increase of 4,834 proposals and Rs. 70,76,300 in sum assured.

Policies.

443. Out of the accepted proposals, 15,152 resulted in policies assuring a sum of Rs. 2,11,07,080 yielding an annual premium of Rs. 12,83,103. Thus, the increase on 3,126 policies was Rs. 53,10,895 in sum assured and Rs. 3,06,186 in premium over the corresponding figures for the previous year.

Motor Branch.

444. The Motor Branch insured 2,217 vehicles earning a premium income of about Rs. 2,14,081 as compared with 1,967 vehicles earning a premium income of about Rs. 1,76,124. The claims paid during the year amounted to Rs. 51,644.

Motor Insurance Fund.

445. The Motor Insurance Fund as on 31st March 1956 was Rs. 11,16,680 (Rs. 10,27,121).

New Branch Office opened.

446. A Branch Office was opened at Mysore on 15th August 1955 for popularising the Public Branch, supervising field work and giving local facilities to policy-holders and agents. The Branch Office has jurisdiction over Mysore, Mandya and Hassan Districts. The New Business procured from 15th August 1955 to 31st March 1956 in the area covered by the Branch Office was Rs. 48,25,500 as against a business of Rs. 32,63,400 for the corresponding period during the previous year when there was no Branch Office.

447. The Department as usual participated in the Dasara Exhibition, 1955 at Mysore and procured a record New Business amounting to Rs. 17,10,000 within a period of 15 days.

(v) Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) Act, 1949

448. No amendments to the Motor Spirit (Taxation on Sales) Act, 1949, were introduced during the year.

449. Five importers, and 92 retailers registered as dealers in petrol under section 4 (1) of the Act, three importers, three wholesalers and 80 retailers had registered as dealers in Motor Spirit other than petrol.

450. The number of monthly assessments made under Petrol and Motor Spirit other than petrol were 1,836 and 1,227 respectively. Five hundred and eight cases of petrol, 587 cases in Motor Spirit other than petrol were pending assessment at the close of the year.

451. Out of the total demand of Rs. 34,37,427-3-10, a sum of Rs. 33,05,465-5-10 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 1,31,961-14-0. In respect of arrears, action was taken to recover the entire arrears by taking penal action under section 7 (2) and 10 of the Act.

452. Prosecutions were launched in 20 cases by Sales Tax Officers and in two cases warning was administered by the Department. Thirty-one cases were compounded departmentally and one case was pending disposal at the end of the year.

453. Arrears of Rs. 18,987-12-0 were collected through the Revenue Department.